March 24, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (March 15-21, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

Work started on Work Instruction (WI) -1125, Utility Removal in the Hot Equipment Storage Room. Work is approximately 60% completed and will continue next week.

Work resumed on WI-1043, Rev. 3, Utility Removal in High Energy Cell (HEC)/Cask Wash Down Area, HEC Operations Area, and JN-1B High Bay, and is anticipated to continue next week.

WI-1159, Utility Removal in the Controlled Access Area (CAA)/Old Back Dock, is undergoing final managerial review. It is anticipated that work under this WI will be initiated next week.

HEC well decontamination continued under WI-1154. Entry was made, and all the wells were opened. The six small wells and the gamma scan hole were decontaminated to <200 mR/hr. Approximately 25 gallons of water were removed from the large well.

Work under WI-1155 covering the removal of the large plugs from the HEC was completed this week. The last of the three port shield doors was removed. The WI was completed and closed out.

A meeting was held with the Safety staff to discuss the path forward for managing lead from the HEC window liners. Drafts of WI-1129 for lead removal around the HEC window

liners and WI-1147 for removal of the HEC window liners are being distributed for comment. Performing these two WIs will complete the work originally started under WI-1157.

Myers Movers submitted a quote for planning and removing the cranes and crane rails from the HEC; it is currently under review. Once contracted, Myers Movers will prepare a work plan to be added to WI-1099 covering crane removal.

The representatives from InstaCote® are scheduled to be on-site March 31 to perform upgrades to the poly-urea system.

Mock-up testing preparations for the Saxton pin were initiated. A steel liner is being modified to match the configuration of the Saxton pin package. Several conceptual designs for straightening the pin containment tube were received.

Building JN-3:

Water is being continually pumped from under the JN-3 basement via the wells and pumps installed in the Pump Room and around the reactor pool.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Groundwater is being pumped from the wells on the exterior of JN-3.

Direction has been received from DOE to delay progress for the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

Both Casks #2 and #7 were removed from their trailers and placed in the JN-1 High Bay for storage. Cask #2 will be unloaded and returned to GTS Duratek for use until TRU waste shipping resumes. Work continued on the paperwork and videos as necessary to obtain approval to ship the remaining TRU waste, in anticipation of shipments resuming in the future.

Meetings were held with Westinghouse TRU Solutions (WTS) and the DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) concerning the JN-4 contact-handled (CH-) TRU waste stream. WTS will review the acceptable knowledge documentation and the real-time radiography (RTR) video of the drums and assist the BCLDP in determining whether repackaging some or all of the drums are required prior to transportation. The CBFO will assist the BCLDP with a path forward for shipping the JN-4 waste to an interim storage site for characterization, certification, and transportation to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal.

The BCLDP met with WTS and the CBFO concerning the remote-handled (RH-) TRU waste that exceeds the parameters of the CNS 10-160B Cask. The plan is to demonstrate

the 72B Cask at the WIPP and in the JN-1 High-Bay in May and June, with a possible demonstration at a receiver site in July. Currently, only one 72B Cask is available for use at this time.

The CBFO will amend to TRU record of decision (ROD) so that the BCLDP can ship RH-TRU waste to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) and CH-TRU waste to an interim storage site for characterization and certification. This will support the BCLDP's need to ship all TRU waste off-site by September 30, 2003.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Seventy cubic feet (70 ft^3) of compactable LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes, for a total volume of 98 ft^3 (30 ft^3 for Envirocare of Utah and 68 ft^3 for Hanford Nuclear Facility disposal).

One B-25 box of mixed LLW (MLLW) lead from the HEC was packaged; it was staged in the JN-1 "Sheep shed" <90-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act accumulation area. The MLLW is destined for Envirocare for treatment and disposal.

Fifty-three cubic feet (400 gallons) of JN-2 Radioanalytical Laboratory (RAL) water were radiologically free-released and transferred into the JN-1 evaporator. Ten cubic feet (10 ft^3) of clean waste were free-released for municipal disposal.

Twenty-four cubic feet (24 ft^3) of lead counterweights were radiologically free-released to Battelle Columbus Operations Hazardous Waster Operations for reuse/recycle. This action avoided more than $6,000 in transportation and waste disposal fees.

Three hundred cubic feet (300 ft^3) of radiologically free-released soil from JN-1 were shipped for municipal disposal.

Technology Deployment:

Staff reviewed the data of the injection cycle testing and prepared procedures for the extraction cycle testing. Engineering modifications to extract water from the field continued. Plot 2 subsurface water level monitoring continued. (WI-984)

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 178 days and 124,451 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance for the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed. The evaporator is turned on and working well. Potential contractors to resurface the JN-1 Pump Room roof were on-site gathering data for bid submittal. The brake system repairs of the Hyster 155 forklift were completed. The Hyster 6300 forklift remained out of service awaiting backrest replacement. JN-2 RAL HEPA filters were changed out, and the DOP test was completed. Annual DOP test of the JN-1 CAA HEPA system was completed.

WI-1119 began completing the final status survey of the JN-6 roof for facilities to reroof the building.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1131 for the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing is in the review cycle.
- Procedure revisions addressing replacement of the JN-1B groundwater sump pump were implemented. The current pump's float switch has failed.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk